

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, in view of the foregoing amendments. Applicants have attempted to address the points raised by the Examiner at pages 2-4 of the pending Office Action. As to the questions "how," Applicants submit that one skilled in the art will find the answer in the appropriate place in the application, namely the Specification and Drawings. As it appears that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is based upon claim interpretation that flows from said points, the undersigned requests the opportunity for a personal interview with the Examiner should any Section 112 issues be deemed by the Office to remain despite the amendments. This is particularly appropriate to advance prosecution given the filing of the RCE and the advanced stage of this case.

The rejection of Claims 1-14 as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Habert under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is again respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is requested in light of the foregoing amendments which are believed to more precisely define the radial direction in relation to the blank central axis. Also, Applicants incorporate by reference herein their previous written remarks with this additional summation.

In Kato, the claws are shaped by moving the cope in the axial direction of the rotor, whereas in the present invention, a punch is moved in a radial direction to form a tapered surface. By radial direction, Applicants mean the direction shown by arrowhead 40 shown in Figs. 6(a) and 6(b), that is, a direction from a periphery of the claw toward a central axis shown in Fig. 4. Again, it would appear that the applicability of the Kato and Habert patents is based solely on possible ambiguity of the previous claim language rather than on the actual similarities between the forming methods. For that reason, Applicants request a personal interview should any issues still remain.

Otherwise, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

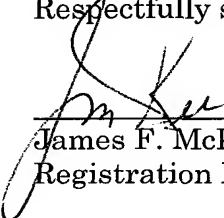
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please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

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Respectfully submitted,



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